

Gazette, and soon attracted notice on account of the careful and accurate observation they displayed. These articles he reproduced in book form in 1909, adding a valuable table showing the distribution of Burmese birds*. He also contributed articles from time to time to 'The Ibis,' the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, and other periodicals; the most important of these was his review of the Timeliidæ, which appeared in the Bombay Journal during 1914-15.

Colonel Harington was the discoverer of a number of new forms, and several birds have been named after him by various ornithologists in recognition of the good work he did. Amongst these may be mentioned *Polionetta haringtoni* Oates; *Oreicola f. haringtoni* Hartert; *Pomatorhinus e. haringtoni* and *Garrulus haringtoni* Sharpe. He was elected a Member of the Union in 1904.

We regret to announce the death of Lt.-Col. E. A. Butler on May 16 last. We hope to give a notice of his life and work in the October number.

XXVI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

Bangs's recent papers.

[The Bahama Swallow in Cuba. By Outram Bangs. Auk, xxxi. 1914, p. 401.

The Bermuda Crow. Id. *ibid.* xxxii. 1915, pp. 229-230.

Cabot's types of Yucatan birds. Id. *ibid.* xxxii. 1915, pp. 167-170.

Notes on dichromatic Herons and Hawks. Id. *ibid.* xxxii. 1915, pp. 481-484.

A Collection of Birds from the Cayman Islands. Id. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Cambridge, Mass., lx. 1916, pp. 303-320.

Three new subspecies of birds from Eastern Mexico and Yucatan. Id. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxviii. 1915, pp. 125-126.

The American Forms of *Gallinula chloropus* (Linn.). Id. Proc. New England Zool. Cl. v. 1915, pp. 93-99.]

In the first of this long list of papers which Mr. Bangs has recently sent, he informs us that he has received two

* The Birds of Burma. By H. H. Harington, Major, Indian Army, M.B.O.U., F.Z.S. Rangoon, 1909. 134 pp. 8vo.

examples of *Callichelidon cyaneo-viridis* (Bryant) from Nipe Bay in north-west Cuba, killed by Mr. V. Cameron Forbes in March. This species was previously supposed to be confined to the Bahamas. In the second paper he confirms Mr. J. N. Kennedy's belief that the Bermuda Crow is the common eastern North-American species, *Corvus b. brachyrhynchos*, which is said to have been introduced into those islands about 1876.

It is always of interest to know where the original types, especially of species described by older authors, are to be found. Those of Dr. Samuel Cabot, Jr., who in the "forties" of last century travelled in Yucatan and amassed a considerable collection of birds, which are described in an appendix to 'Incidents of Travel in Yucatan,' by John L. Stephens (London, 1843), were, after Dr. Cabot's death, presented to the Boston Society of Natural History, and have now passed into the possession of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass. A list of such of these types that are still identifiable is given in Mr. Bangs's third paper.

The fourth paper has already been referred to in our pages (*antea*, p. 76); the following one deals with the birds of the Cayman Islands, and discusses a collection made in 1911 by Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., between the months of April and May. Some interesting remarks are made by Mr. Bangs on the sources whence the bird-life peculiar to the islands has been derived, and a new subspecies (*Amazona leucocephala hesternana*) is proposed for the Parrot inhabiting Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, which is believed to be distinct from that (*A. l. caymanensis*) inhabiting Grand Cayman. In view of the remarks of Mr. English (Ibis, *antea*, p. 17) on the variability of the Cayman Parrot, this may perhaps be hardly justifiable.

The last two papers on the list are short: one contains descriptions of *Tityra semifasciata deses* from Yucatan, *Turdus migratorius phillipsi* from Vera Cruz, and *Cyanocopsa parellina beneplacita* from Tamaulipas, all new subspecies from Mexico. The last paper reviews the Moorhens

of the American Continent, which Mr. Bangs considers only subspecifically distinct from the European *Gallinula chloropus*. In addition to *G. c. galeata*, now confined to southern Brazil and northern Argentina, Mr. Bangs recognizes *G. c. cerceris* Bangs from the Lesser Antilles, *G. c. garmani* Allen from the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes, *G. c. pauwilla* from western Colombia, and *G. c. cachinnans* from eastern and central North America. The last two are here described for the first time, and the last-named is the form which has hitherto been referred to *G. galeata* by all previous writers.

Brasil on New Caledonian Birds.

[Notes sur une collection d'oiseaux de la Nouvelle Calédonie et de Lifou. Rev. Franç. Orn. vii. 1916, pp. 193-204, 219-223.]

In this paper M. Brasil gives an account of two collections of Pacific birds made many years ago, between 1865 and 1869, by Naval-Surgeon E. Deplanche and Commander H. Jouan in the island of New Caledonia and the neighbouring island of Lifou, one of the Loyalty group.

These collections, which are now in the Museum at Caen, have never yet been reported on, much to the regret of M. Brasil, who finds among them many forms which have been described as new by other authors in collections made since that date.

Out of the 68 species here enumerated, however, he finds five worthy of distinction as new subspecies, namely:—*Chalcophaps chrysochlora disjuncta*, *Haliastur sphenurus johannæ*, *Pandion haliaëtus microhaliaëtus*, *Tyto alba lijūensis*, *Sauropatis sancta canacorum*.

Brooks on Siberian and Alaskan Birds.

[Notes on Birds from East Siberia and Arctic Alaska. By W. Sprague Brooks. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Cambridge, Mass., lix. 1915, pp. 361-413.]

In the spring of 1913 Messrs. W. Sprague Brooks and Joseph Dixon accompanied a hunting expedition organized by some graduates of Harvard University in northern

waters. Leaving Seattle in the spring they cruized along the Alaska coast, and thence to Copper Island and Kamchatka until the end of July; then crossing Behring Straits they sailed along the northern Alaskan coast, and finally wintered near the Alaska-Canadian boundary, and they did not again meet civilization till August 1914. During that time they made large collections of birds at various localities, and the present paper contains their observations and field-notes. A good many of the rarer Waders were found nesting, such as *Ereunetes pusillus*, *Pisobia pectoralis* and *P. bairdi* in northern Alaska, and *P. minuta ruficollis* in Siberia.

The following new forms are described:—*Larus thayeri*, Ellesmere Land and northern Alaska; *Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus*, Kamchatka; *Oidemia deglandi dixonii*, Arctic Alaska; *Leucosticte griseonucha maxima*, Copper Is.; and *Nannus hiemalis semidiensis*, Semidi Is., Alaska.

Chandler on the Structure of Feathers.

[A Study of the Structure of Feathers with reference to their taxonomic significance, by Asa C. Chandler. Univ. California Publ. Zool., Berkeley, vol. xiii. 1916, pp. 243-446; 25 pls., 7 text-figs.]

This is an important and lengthy memoir of over two hundred pages in which the structure of feathers in all their various modifications are reviewed throughout the various orders and families of birds. Previous works on the subject by such authors as Gadow, Pycraft, Wray, and others are fully utilized, and a long bibliography is given. An introduction and a general account of the morphology of feathers occupies some forty-five pages, and this is followed by the systematic review. In each subordinal group a type is selected and the structure of the feathers described at some length, and a summary of the most important characters is given.

In the concluding pages the value in taxonomy of the principal modifications of feathers as they appear to the author is discussed, and some suggestions as to the

relations of certain types are considered as deduced from the study of their feather-structure. For instance, Dr. Chandler believes that *Cursorius* is more fittingly placed with the Ardeæ than with the Limicolæ; that the Phaëthontidæ are more closely related to the Laridæ than to the other Steganopodes; that the Galbulidæ show evidence of not belonging to the Pici. All these suggestions, as is certainly pointed out by Dr. Chandler, are based on the study of feather-structure alone and must be taken into consideration with other structural characters; but the whole paper is a most suggestive one, and should be carefully studied by all those who are interested in the morphology of the epidermal structures of birds.

Chapin on the Pennant-winged Nightjar.

[The Pennant-winged Nightjar of Africa and its Migration. By James P. Chapin. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. New York, xxxv. 1916, pp. 73-81, map.]

Mr. Chapin, who has been collecting for many years past in the Belgian Congo, has made some interesting observations on the Pennant-winged Nightjar (*Cosmetornis vexillarius*), in which the inner primaries are enormously elongated and reach two and a half times the whole length of the bird itself. This extraordinary modification renders the bird very conspicuous, and once seen it can never be forgotten or mistaken.

Mr. Chapin makes it clear from his own records, as well as those of other observers, that this bird is found north of the great equatorial forest of west and central Africa only between March and July, and it is not known to breed during that period. Between September and January it occurs to the south of the equatorial forest, and has been recorded in various localities during those months in Angola, Nyasaland, and Rhodesia.

Mr. Chapin, when in the Ituri forest, saw the birds only for a short time in February and March, and again in July and August, and believes that they were then on their migration northwards to their "winter quarters" and

southward to their breeding range. These observations are exceedingly valuable and open up quite new ideas in regard to the migration of tropical and subtropical birds, though it has long been known that certain south African species, such as the Larger Stripe-breasted Swallow (*Hirundo cuculata*), the South African Cuckoos (*Cuculus gularis* and *C. solitarius*), and several others, all breed in South Africa between September and March, and disappear presumably to northern central Africa from April to August.

Chapin on new African Birds.

[Four new Birds from the Belgian Congo. By James P. Chapin. Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H. New York, xxxv. 1916, pp. 23-29, 4 figs.]

The species described are *Stilbopsar leucothorax* from the Ituri district, which is figured in black and white; *Paludipasser uelensis* from the Upper Uele district, a second species of the curious little weaver-bird the first of which was described by Mr. Neave from Lake Bangweolo; *Malimbus flavipes* from the Ituri district; and *Bradypterus carpalis* from the Upper Uelle district. In the case of the last three, outline figures are given of the heads and feet, and in the case of the last-named of the wing and tail as well.

Chubb on the Birds of British Guiana.

[The Birds of British Guiana, based on the Collection of Frederick Vavasour McConnell. By Charles Chubb, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., with a preface by Mrs. F. V. McConnell. Vol. i. pp. liv+528; 10 col. pls., map, and 95 text-figs. London (Quaritch), 1916. 8vo.]

The late Mr. McConnell (see *Ibis*, 1914, p. 322) spent a good many years in British Guiana and travelled extensively in the country, making two excursions to Mount Roraima. He was deeply interested in ornithology and had amassed large collections of birds of British Guiana.

At the time of his death he was engaged in making a catalogue of his collection, in which task he was assisted by Mr. Chubb.

Since his death in 1914, wishing, in memory of her husband, to have some record of his work, Mrs. McConnell

decided to ask Mr. Chubb to prepare a complete descriptive catalogue of the birds of British Guiana, based chiefly on the McConnell collections, but also making use of the material in the British Museum and elsewhere.

The present volume is the result. It contains the account of the non-passerine portion of the Guiana Avifauna, and there can be no doubt that field-naturalists as well as students will find it a most valuable work. It is arranged somewhat on the lines of Blanford's Birds in the "Fauna of India" series, and the account of each species contains a short summary of all that is known about it. There are a number of figures in the text illustrating structural generic characters, and also keys to help the student to identify any of the birds.

Three new subspecies are described in the present volume for the first time; the types are in the McConnell collection. These are *Ortygops notata duncani*, *Cerciscus melanophæus macconnelli*, and *Ciccaba superciliaris macconnelli*.

As has been already stated Mr. McConnell made two expeditions to Roraima, the mysterious flat-topped mountain on the borders of British Guiana and Brazil. A journal of the first journey in 1894 occupies the first thirty-four pages of the present work and is illustrated with a number of photographs of scenery and Indians. The journal of the second journey in 1898 has unfortunately disappeared, and the little we know about it is from a few lines of introduction to the account of the collections made, published in the "Transactions of the Linnean Society" (Zoology (2) viii. p. 51, 1900). The journal of the first expedition, however, is full of interest and gives us a vivid picture of the difficulties and dangers of travel in the forests and on the rivers of British Guiana.

We shall look forward with great interest to the completion of this work and would offer our congratulations to Mrs. McConnell and to Mr. Chubb on the enduring monument they have raised to the memory of Mr. McConnell.

Despott on Maltese Birds.

[A List of the Birds of Malta. Compiled for the University Museum of Natural History by Gius. Despott. Pp. 1-39. Malta (Govt. Printing Office), 1915. 8vo.]

The study of the birds of Malta has been rather neglected of late years. In the early days of the B. O. U., Mr. Charles C. Wright published in 'The Ibis' for 1864 his catalogue, and Blasius gave a complete list in 'Ornis' for 1894, containing the names of 288 species. Mr. Despott, who is Curator of the Museum at Valetta, has now given us a list of 340 species recorded from the island. Of these we believe only some dozen of the land-birds breed regularly on the islands, the others are all migrants only, and it seems that Malta would be an extremely good place at which to carry on a serious study of migration.

The present list gives the English, Italian, and Maltese names, and a short note on the status. The nomenclature seems a little antiquated, but this can easily be remedied, as we understand that Mr. Despott, who has recently been elected a member of our Union, is preparing a more detailed account of the birds of the Maltese Islands.

Grinnell on Museum Methods.

[Methods of caring for study skins of Birds. By Joseph Grinnell. Proc. Amer. Assoc. Museums, ix. 1915, pp. 106-111.]

In this short address Mr. Grinnell gives us of his experience his methods for labelling, cataloguing, and storing study collections of bird-skins. He does not give very precise details as to the cabinets or store-boxes in use in his Museum at Berkeley in California, but we gather they are very similar to those in use in the Museum at Cambridge, Mass., where large wooden cases lined with zinc and with air-tight doors are used. The birds are stored on light trays with pulp-board bases, which slide in and out of the cases. This is a very different system from the one in use in the Natural History Museum, and has a great many advantages over the heavy and expensive cabinets generally used in this country.

Hartert's recent papers.

[Notes on Pigeons. By Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Novit. Zool. Tring, xxiii. 1916, pp. 77-88.

Notes on *Glareola*. Id. *ibid.* pp. 89-91.

Concerning the occurrence of *Erolia bairdii* in South-west Africa. Id. *ibid.* p. 91.

What is the correct name of the "Long-toed Stint"? Id. *ibid.* pp. 92-93.

On the forms of *Burhinus œdicnemus*. Id. *ibid.* p. 93.

On the birds figured in the Atlas to Krusenstern's Voyage round the world. Id. *ibid.* pp. 94-95.

Errors in quotations. Id. *ibid.* pp. 112-114.]

In the last number of the Tring Journal Dr. Hartert publishes seven short notes on various subjects. We will try briefly to summarize their contents and conclusions.

The truly wild Turtle-Dove of India has usually been known as *Streptopelia* (formerly *Turtur*) *risoria*. The name was given by Linnæus to the domesticated bird which he believed was originally derived from India. Dr. Hartert considers that our domesticated race is derived from *S. roseo-grisea* of north-eastern Africa, and that the Indian bird must be called by the barbarous term *S. decaocto* Frivaldsky. Another note deals with the various forms of the Laughing-Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*, of which he recognises six: *S. s. senegalensis*, Senegambia to the Cape and to Palestine; *S. s. socotra*, Island of Socotra; *S. s. phœnicophila* subsp. n., from Morocco to Tunis south of the Atlas range; *S. s. ægyptiaca*, Egypt; *S. s. cambayensis*, India; *S. s. ermanni*, Turkestan to Muscat. For the Spotted Dove of Yunnan and the Snow-Pigeon of western China Dr. Hartert proposes the new subspecific names, *Streptopelia chinensis vacillans* and *Columba leuconota gradaria* respectively. The Laurel Pigeon of the Canaries, generally known as *Columba larviva*, is renamed *C. junonie*, as the former name is shown to be a synonym of *C. trocaz* of Madeira.

In the second note on the list Dr. Hartert dismisses the genera *Galactochrysea* and *Subglareola* (the latter recently proposed by Mathews) as unnecessary; he also shows that the Pratincole of southern Europe does not migrate south

of the Sahara, and that the Pratincoles of Africa form distinct races and breed there. Of these he recognises two races—*Glareola pratincola limbata*, Nubia to Angola, and *G. p. fülliborni*, East Africa and Natal. The Pratincole of Asia migrating to Australia, hitherto known as *G. p. orientalis*, Dr. Hartert regards as a distinct species and calls it *G. maldivarum* Forst.

The third note deals with the occurrence of Baird's Sandpiper in South-west Africa. A single example obtained by Andersson at Walvisch Bay on October 23, 1863, passed from the Seebohm collection into that of the Museum of St. Petersburg and is presumably still there. It never went to the British Museum with the rest of the Seebohm collection. This example is the only one ever recorded from Africa.

In the fourth note Dr. Hartert states his reasons for believing that the name of the Long-toed Stint should be *Tringa* (or *Erolia*) *subminuta* Middendorff rather than *Tringa damacensis*, the name used by Sharpe in the Catalogue and by the B. O. U. Check-list.

The fifth note distinguishes the Stone-Plover of Central Asia and south and east Persia as *Burhinus udicnemus astutus* subsp. n.

Though an Atlas of Plates illustrating the spoils of Capt. von Krusenstern's voyage round the world appeared in 1814 no text was published and the Atlas remains a very rare work. Birds are figured on eight of the plates, and several of the figures formed the basis for descriptions by Vieillot in the *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* In the sixth paper on the list Dr. Hartert has endeavoured to identify these figures.

The final note gives a list of errors in quotations in the synonymy of the 24th volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' by Sharpe, and is a warning to writers to verify their references before copying them down even from such well-known works as the 'Catalogue of Birds' or Reichenow's 'Vögel Afrikas.'

Miss Kellogg and Mr. Grinnell on Birds from northern California.

[Report upon Mammals and Birds found in portions of Trinity, Siskiyou, and Shasta Counties, California. By Louise Kellogg.

An analysis of the Vertebrate Fauna of the Trinity Region of northern California. By Joseph Grinnell. Univ. California Publ. Zool., Berkeley, xii. 1916, pp. 335-410. 21 photos.]

These two articles contain an account of collections of Mammals and Birds made by Miss Annie Alexander and Miss Kellogg in the mountainous region on the northern border of California, which does not appear to have been very thoroughly worked previously. An annotated list of the birds collected is given, and in the second paper Mr. Grinnell draws some conclusions as to the relations of the fauna of this region, which lies between the humid coast-lands and the drier country of the Sierra Nevada. On the whole he finds its relations are chiefly with the faunal region of the Sierra Nevada.

Mathews on Australian Birds.

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. v. pt. 2, pp. 153-248, pls. 245-254. London (Witherby), Febr. 1916. 4to.]

In this part the author continues the account of the Raptorial birds of the country. A considerable space is devoted to the full discussion of the genus *Falco*, its relation to other allied genera, its division into subgenera, and the types of the several divisions. From this important and interesting dissertation we learn that Mr. Mathews admits two Australian species into *Falco* proper, viz., *F. longipennis* (= *F. lunulatus* Lath. nec Daudin) and *F. hypoleucus*. The views of authors such as Kaup, Sharpe, Gurney, and so forth are carefully debated, and compared with the opinions of the Committees which produced the B. O. U. and A. O. U. Lists.

As regards the author's own predilections, he continues to propound *F. subbuteo* as the type of *Falco*; while he accepts *Rhynchodon* for the Peregrine alliance, and also utilizes *Hierofalco*, *Tinnunculus*, *Rhynchofalco*, and *Cerchneis*. In

so doing he lays considerable stress upon the value of coloration as a factor in generic determination.

Among the other genera *Haliastur indus* is stated to have four recognisable subspecies; but these are connected by various intermediates, and the species is consequently left undivided in the absence of more precise information. It is shown that "*girrenera*" is a synonym of "*pondicerianus*" and cannot be used for the Australian bird more properly called *leucosternus*. *Haliastur* lies between the Sea-Eagles and the Kites, while it is noticeable as having the mewing cry of the latter. A smaller and lighter form of *Haliastur sphenurus* is made a new subspecies "*sarrasini*."

One new genus is proposed in this part, *Neobaza* with type *N. madagascariensis*; *Baza* is restricted to *B. lophotes*; *Aviceda* and *Lophastur* are accepted as valid genera.

Several pages are required to elucidate the confusion concerning the Latin names of the two Australian *Elani*, with the result that *notatus* of Gould takes the place of *axillaris*, and *scriptus* stands as aforesaid.

With respect to the rejection of Gmelin's *korschun* for *Milvus migrans*, Mr. Mathews recalls the fact that *Milvus* was once used for both Harriers and Kites, to which the reviewer may add that in Norfolk the male Harrier is a "Kite," and in Wales he has heard the Buzzard called by the same name. The Australian or Allied Kite is but a subspecies of *M. migrans*.

For several other subspecies formerly proposed, but cancelled after further consideration, readers must consult the pages of the work.

Murphy on South American Cormorants.

[Notes on American Subantarctic Cormorants. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H. New York, xxxv. 1916, pp. 31-48. 13 photos.]

This paper is chiefly concerned with the identification and relationships of the Cormorant of South Georgia, the habits of which the author studied in 1912-13 when cruising

around that island. He also collected seventeen specimens, which form the basis of this paper and which are now in the American Museum.

Mr. Murphy finds that *Phalacrocorax georgianus* is, on the whole, more closely allied to *P. albiventris* than to *P. atriceps*, with which it has hitherto been associated as a subspecies, and he gives us a table of measurements and of other characters of the three forms to prove his case.

In the second half of the paper field-notes and descriptions of the nesting-habits and eggs are given, and these are illustrated with a number of excellent photographs taken at the breeding-place—a small precipitous islet lying near the south shore of the Bay of Isles in South Georgia, where he found this Cormorant nesting in considerable numbers in December.

Noble on a new Dove.

[A new Dove from St. Croix, Danish West Indies. By G. K. Noble. Proc. New England Zool. Cl. v. 1915, pp. 101-102.]

Mr. Noble distinguishes the Zenaida Dove of St. Croix, and presumedly that of the other islands of the Lesser Antilles, under the name of *Zenaida zenaida lucida* as distinct from *Z. z. zenaida* of the Greater Antilles and the Bahamas.

Richardson's Life of Tegetmeier.

[A veteran Naturalist, being the life and work of W. B. Tegetmeier. By E. W. Richardson, with an Introduction by the late Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart. Pp. xxxiv+232; many portraits and illustr. London (Witherby), 1916. 8vo.]

Many of us must remember the subject of this biography, a little old man with keen and sharply-cut features who frequently attended the dinners of the B. O. C. in the earlier days up to 1905, and who generally had something interesting to communicate.

Born in 1816, and living a busy and active life till within a year or two of his death in 1912 at the age of ninety-six, he was a spectator of many changes and had many interesting experiences. Brought up for a medical

career he never fully qualified, though he was apprenticed at the age of fifteen to his father, himself a medical man practising in Great Ryder Street, St. James's. Young Tegetmeier soon broke away from medicine, however, and became a journalist and writer on Natural History subjects. His first published work, "First lines of Botany," appeared in 1849. During subsequent years he published many works on Poultry, Pigeons and Pheasants and their management in health and disease. In the meantime he became manager of the Poultry and Pigeon department of the 'Field' Newspaper, a position which he held for over forty years, only retiring in 1907. He also contributed the leaders to the 'Queen' for nearly twenty-five years.

Tegetmeier was a fearless critic and prodigal of his expression of hatred for wrong-doing or injustice. He was always ready for a fight when occasion arose, but he does not seem to have been any the less popular on that account at any rate with his colleagues in the 'Field' office, where he was always known as "Teggy the Fighter."

The present biography is written by his son-in-law, and gives one a very pleasant but rather rambling account of the old naturalist and of his various interests. The author apologises for his want of knowledge of ornithology and of the subjects which chiefly occupied Mr. Tegetmeier during his long life, and in one or two passages this is noticeable; but on the whole the work is very well done and will give pleasure to his many admirers.

The introduction is written by the late Sir Walter Gilbey, with whom Tegetmeier was on terms of considerable intimacy. He, like Tegetmeier, believed that the most satisfactory method of treating game and poultry and all domesticated stock was to allow the animals or birds to lead, as far as possible, a life that conforms to natural conditions, and these principles were as far as possible carried out at Elsenham.

Tegetmeier's service to the poultry interest is impossible to over-estimate. He was for a great part of his life a judge at poultry shows, and when he commenced this work

in the "fifties" the moral standard of exhibitions was very different from what it is now. So-called "improving" birds was rife, and the honest exhibitor had no chance. Tegetmeier set his face against all such practices, and after many a hard fight won the day, so that now the whole moral tone of shows has vastly improved.

The work is illustrated with reproductions of several portraits of Tegetmeier and also of a number of sketches and cartoons mostly taken from the Savage Club Papers, of which club he was an original member.

Robinson and Kloss on the Birds of Kedah Peak.

[The Natural History of Kedah Peak. By H. C. Robinson and C. Boden Kloss. J. Fed. Malay States Mus., Singapore, vol. vi. 1916, pp. 219-244.]

Dominating the roadstead of Penang and isolated from all the other mountains of the Malay Peninsula, the Kedah Peak attains a height of 3976 feet. As very little zoological collecting had ever been done on the mountain, and its isolated position seemed to offer chances of interesting results, Messrs. Robinson and Kloss recently made, with the help of three trained Dyak collectors, a thorough search of the mountain, but with rather disappointing results, as it was found to be singularly barren of bird-life both as regards species and individuals. A list of the 36 species obtained includes *Prionochilus thoracicus*, a rare species which has but seldom been obtained in the Malay Peninsula.

Thayer and Bangs on the Birds of Saghalien, and on a new Song-Sparrow.

[A Collection of Birds from Saghalien Island. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Auk, xxxiii. 1916, pp. 43-48.

A new Song-Sparrow from Nova Scotia. Idd. Proc. New England Zoölogical Club, v. 1914, pp. 67-68.]

The birds of Saghalien Island, the southern half of which now belongs to Japan, while the northern half still remains Russian, have been carefully studied by Lönnerberg (J. Coll. Sci. Imp. Univ. Tokyo, xxiii. 1908, art. no. 14), and the

present collection of about 150 specimens, collected by Prof. L. Munsterhjelm and now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., does not add very much to our knowledge, though lists such as these are always interesting, especially when as here the specimens are accurately dated. No new species are described.

The second paper contains a description of *Melospiza melodia acadica*, subsp. n., from Nova Scotia, and, though published in 1914, is not to be found in the 'Record' for that year, probably owing to the fact that the periodical in which it is published is not to be found in any of the zoological libraries in London.

Wetmore on Porto Rico Birds.

[Birds of Porto Rico. By Alex. Wetmore, Assistant Biologist. U.S. Dept. Agr. Bull. no. 326, 1916, pp. 1-140, 8 pls., 1 map.]

This paper was prepared by Mr. Wetmore as a result of the investigations made by him on behalf of the Biological Survey at Washington, and chiefly from an economic point of view. The field-work in Porto Rico covered the entire island, and continued for about nine months from Dec. 1911 to Sept. 1912.

Mr. Wetmore finds Porto Rico very poor in bird-life as regards the number of species, both as compared with Cuba and Jamaica, and even more so as compared with corresponding latitudes in Mexico and Central America. He estimates the total number of species and subspecies at 162, of which 94 breed on the island and 25 are peculiar to it.

Porto Rico is a highly cultivated island, the low-lying coast-lands being given up chiefly to sugar-cane, and the elevated interior being planted with coffee and citrus-groves; these three crops have all their special insect-pests, and it is the object of this paper to show which birds are most useful in destroying the pests. Among these the Martinete (*Butorides v. cubanus*), the Falcon (*Falco s. loquacula*), the Clerigo (*Tolmarcus taylori*), and the Mozambique (*Holoquiscalus brachypterus*) appear to be the most efficient.

The introduction is followed by a list of all the birds

known to inhabit the island, with their native names, their status, and a special paragraph about their food as deduced from the study of the stomach-contents; about 2200 stomachs were collected and investigated. A coloured plate by Mr. Fuertes of *Todus americanus*, one of the most characteristic birds of the island, forms a fitting frontispiece to this excellent piece of work.

Witherby on Bird-marking.

[The "British Birds" Marking scheme. Progress for 1915 and some results. By H. F. Witherby. 'British Birds,' London, ix, 1916, pp. 222-229.]

As would naturally be expected, the progress of the 'British Birds' marking scheme has been considerably handicapped by the war. The total number of birds ringed in 1915 is 7767 as against 13,024 in the previous year, but, considering the times, this must be regarded as quite satisfactory.

Among interesting recoveries reported are the following:— A Redstart ringed in Westmorland in June was recovered the following October in Portugal. Swallows ringed in June and August 1914 in Staffordshire and near Birmingham were recovered in May 1915, at the same places where they were ringed. This has also occurred in the case of a Martin, a Sand-Martin, and a Wryneck, showing how individual birds return to the spot where they were bred. There are many other interesting results recorded, and we must congratulate Mr. Witherby on his continued success in carrying on this most useful and valuable work.

Cassinia.

['Cassinia.' A Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia for 1915. Publ. March 1916.]

As usual, 'Cassinia' contains a number of scholarly and well-written articles, of which the most interesting to European readers is undoubtedly that on Titian Ramsey Peale by Mr. Witmer Stone.

Titian Peale was the fourth and youngest son of Charles

Willson Peale, the artist of the revolutionary period, and later on the founder of the Museum which afterwards bore his name. Titian, who was born in 1800, was the naturalist of the family and began his extensive travels as a collector at the early age of 17, when he accompanied William McClure, Thomas Say, and George Ord on a trip to Georgia and Florida, the latter still a Spanish possession. Two years later he accompanied Say as assistant zoologist on Major Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains, when Pike's Peak was ascended for the first time, and whence large collections of birds and other natural history objects were brought back. His longest expedition was as naturalist to the United States Exploring Expedition under Capt. Chas. Wilkes, which started in 1838 and was gone about four years. Peale's report on the Mammals and Birds of this expedition was issued in 1848, but without the plates which he had prepared for it. This is one of the rarest of scientific works. Only about 90 copies were issued by the U.S. Government, the remainder having been destroyed by fire. What happened subsequently is not accurately known, but eventually John Cassin prepared a new report, published in 1852, with Peale's original drawings. It is said that Peale considered himself badly used in the matter.

From 1848 till 1873 Peale had a post in the Patent Office at Washington. After this he returned to Philadelphia, where he occupied rooms at the Academy of Natural Sciences, and spent his time completing the manuscript and plates of a work on butterflies based on his collection. He died of pneumonia on 13 March, 1885. Mr. Stone's article is full of interest, and is embellished with a photogravure reproduction of a portrait.

The other articles in 'Cassinia' are of more local interest, and include a pleasant account of a summer trip to Pocono Lake in the Allegheny Mts., in search of Warblers' nests, illustrated with photographs of the nest of an Alder Flycatcher and of a Yellow-billed Flycatcher by Mr. J. F. Street. A calculation of the percentage of clutches raised to maturity out of the number of those examined in the neighbourhood

of Camden, New Jersey, a city of 100,000 inhabitants, is given by Mr. Julian Potter. The number which succeeded is remarkable. Among hollow-tree dwellers it was 82 $\frac{0}{10}$, ground-nesters were 51 $\frac{0}{10}$, and tree- and bush-dwellers 43 $\frac{0}{10}$. The usual report on bird-migration in the Delaware Valley by Mr. Witmer Stone, and notes on the rarities which have occurred during the past year, all contribute to make a most successful number of one of the best of the American ornithological publications.

Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union.

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. xi. no. 1. Pretoria, December 1915.]

The present number of our contemporary in South Africa, though dated December 1915, only reached us on May 18. We do not know when it was actually published, but we presume some time subsequently to December 1915. If so, the date of publication should be given as the omission may give rise to considerable confusion in later years.

The longest and most important paper in the present number is one by Mr. C. F. M. Swynnerton. He recounts from the ornithological point of view the numerous experiments he has made on the relations of birds to their insect prey, especially butterflies and moths. The present series deals with the Wood-Hoopoe (*Irrisor erythrorhynchus*), the Hornbills (*Lophoceros leucomelas* and *L. melanoleucus*), and the Babbler (*Crateropus kirki*).

The feeding experiments (seventy-three in number) with these species are all given in considerable detail, and the final pages contain a discussion of results and conclusions. This contains the pith of the paper, and deals first with methods of attack in the case of stinging insects such as wasps, or hard glossy beetles, or swiftly flying insects such as butterflies. Another paragraph deals with methods of search, and tells how careful and minute is the search of bark, twigs, and leaves by the smaller birds such as Warblers and Tits, and the way in which large parties of diverse species join in a combined "drive" through the

woodlands. Another paragraph deals with the amount of discrimination shown by various species in eating nauseous or semi-nauseous insects, and how much depends in this case on the appetite and state of repletion of their stomachs. Finally, from his experiments Mr. Swynnerton is convinced of the fact that birds are able to communicate with each other as to whether insect prey is palatable or otherwise. The whole paper is crammed with observations and deductions in regard to all these points and should be read by all who are interested in these matters.

Of the other papers, Mr. H. L. Hare writes on the birds of the Philipstown district of Cape Colony. This is one of the desert parts of the country bordering on the Orange River, and many of the author's observations are of considerable interest. Mr. E. C. Chubb of the Durban Museum records the capture at Port Shepstone in Natal of a young Common Tern ringed at Rossiten, the Bird Protection Station in Prussia. He also is able to add the Black-tailed Tropic-Bird (*Phaëton lepturus*) to the South-African list, as an example of this species was shot by Mr. Alder near Durban in 1912.

Mr. John Wood writes a charming essay on the Curlew in South Africa, where it is chiefly found between October and February, though some individuals remain through the other months of the year, but it has never been known to breed.

Altogether the editors are to be congratulated in having been able to produce so interesting and full a number during these times of stress and duance.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- MATHEWS, G. M. The Birds of Australia. (Vol. v. pt. 3. London, 1916.)
THORBURN, A. British Birds. (Vol. iii. London, 1916.)
WITHERBY, H. F. The Moults of the British Passeres, with Notes on the Sequence of their Plumages. ('Brit. Birds,' ix. 1915-6.)

- Austral Avian Record. (Vol. iii. No. 3. London, 1916.)
 Avicultural Magazine. (Third Series, Vol. vii. Nos. 6-8. London, 1916.)
 Bird Notes. (New Series, Vol. vii. Nos. 4-6. Ashbourne, 1916.)
 British Birds. (Vol. ix. Nos. 11, 12; Vol. x. No. 1. London, 1916.)
 California Fish and Game. (Vol. ii. No. 2. San Francisco, 1916.)
 The Condor. (Vol. xviii. No. 2. Hollywood, Cal., 1916.)
 The Emu. (Vol. xv. pt. 4. Melbourne, 1916.)
 The Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xxv. Nos. 4, 5. Dublin, 1916.)
 La Science Française. (Tomes i., ii. Paris, 1915.)
 Messenger Ornithologique. (1916, No. 2. Moscow, 1916.)
 The Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 52-54. Edinburgh, 1916.)
 South Australian Ornithologist. (Vol. ii. pt. 6. Adelaide, 1916.)
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XXVII.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

The Rev. William Henry Hawker.

SIR,—Among the original members of the British Ornithologists' Union was the Rev. William Henry Hawker, an accomplished naturalist. In an obituary notice published in 'The Ibis,' 1874 (p. 464)—the year of his death—it is stated that he was not a contributor to the pages of this Journal. Again, in an appreciation published in the Jubilee number of 'The Ibis,' 1909 (p. 101), we find the same statement. These notices are not correct; for he was, on the contrary, one of the very earliest contributors to the new publication.

In the opening volume of 'The Ibis' for 1859 (p. 330) may be read a communication in which Mr. Hawker describes the supposed nesting in Hayling Island of the "Ash-coloured" Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*.

In both the above mentioned notices Mr. Hawker's christian names are correctly given, but in the Subject-Index, 1859-1894 (p. 56), his initials are confused, for, as contributor to 'The Ibis,' his name is entered as "Hawker, Rev. E. W.," while it is given correctly in the notice of his death on the same page.

It is curious that three mis-statements should occur in connexion with the same individual, but my own excuse